

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, July 22, 2018

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God;  
and so we are.

**1 John 3:1**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

## Greeting and Blessing\*

## Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 89:1-37 (p. 815)

## Hymn of Preparation\*

“Children of the Heavenly Father” Hymn 131

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we approach your throne of grace this morning through our Savior, Jesus Christ, seeking forgiveness for our disobedience.

**All:** We have sinned against you and other people with our thoughts, words, and deeds. Instead of fleeing from sin, we gave into temptation. Our hearts are weighed down as we consider how we have offended you, our loving Father.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and cause us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. For we are your workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which you prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**All:** All glory be to you through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

## Private Confession of Our Sins

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

*\* Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

# ADORATION AND PRAISE

## First Reading\*

Deuteronomy 8

**Congregational Response** “More Than Conquerors” (printed on the last page of the bulletin)

## Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 23

**Q. 59.** *What good does it do to you, however, to believe all this?*

**A.** In Christ I am right with God and heir of life everlasting.

**Q. 60.** *How are you right with God?*

**A.** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me.

**Q. 61.** *Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?*

**A.** It is not because of any value my faith has that God is pleased with me. Only Christ’s satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me right with God. And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

## Tithes and Offerings

## Doxology\*

Hymn 732

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Lord’s Prayer\*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

Hebrews 12

Congregational Response (Psalm 118)

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” Hymn 389

Pastoral Prayer (based on Romans 8)

Sermon

“God Is Treating Us as His Children”  
Hebrews 12:4-17

Pastor Ben Muresan

## GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

“The Tender Love a Father Has” Hymn 93

Benediction\*

Congregational Benediction Response\*

(Sung to TRINITY)

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.  
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore. Amen.

## LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

In his book, *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer argues that while justification is the immediate consequence of Jesus’ death on the cross for his people, it is not the highest blessing of the gospel in the order of salvation. Packer writes, “Adoption is higher because of the richer relationship with God that it involves.” Justification is a legal term that teaches we are declared not guilty because our sin has been imputed to Christ and his perfect obedience has been imputed to us. Justification assures us that our Judge is no longer wrathful toward us. This is wonderful news, but Packer argues that we need to probe deeper. He writes, “But contrast this, now, with adoption. Adoption is a *family* idea, conceived in terms of *love*, and viewing God as *Father*. In adoption, God takes us into his family and fellowship—he establishes us as his children and heirs. Closeness, affection, and generosity are at the heart of the relationship.” Packer concludes, “To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.”

### Questions:

1. Review last week’s sermon text from Hebrews 12:1-3. How do these verses connect with Hebrews 11? What does it mean to “fix our eyes” on Jesus?
2. Discuss J.I. Packer’s argument in the devotion and read Westminster Confession of Faith chapter 5.5 and 5.7 (On Providence) and chapter 12 (On Adoption). How does knowing that God is our Heavenly Father help us in times of difficulty and distress?
3. How is God’s love for us revealed in his discipline according to Hebrews 12:5-7?
4. Why is it important for us to distinguish between God’s punishment and God’s discipline?
5. What are the benefits of discipline according to Hebrews 12:5-11?
6. How can we guard against a “root of bitterness” in the midst of our trials (Hebrews 12:15)? What is the context of this warning as found in Deuteronomy 29?
7. In preparation for next Sunday, read Hebrews 12:18-24. How is the Old Covenant contrasted with the New Covenant in these verses? Why do you think the blood of Jesus “speaks a better word than the blood of Abel”?

